

NEWSLETTER

First Quarter 2012



**CENTER
FOR
THE BOOK**
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Center for the Book's networks of state centers and reading promotion partners extend the reach of the national center far beyond the programs it sponsors in the Washington area. The national center in the Library of Congress has established this newsletter to serve as a forum for all Center for the Book activities. We want to tell you what we are doing in Washington and around the country to support our mission of promoting books, reading, libraries and literacy.

And we want to hear about all the innovative ways you call attention to the importance of reading. Your updates can serve as year-round "idea exchanges" that augment our two in-person Idea Exchange meetings, held at the Library of Congress.

Please send your submissions to glam@loc.gov.

New Faces and New Ideas

By Guy Lamolinara

"Getting better acquainted" was the overriding goal of the Center for the Book annual State Center Idea Exchange on April 23, said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole, who noted that there were many new faces among the approximately 35 state centers represented.



All photos: Abby Brack Lewis/Library of Congress

Representatives from 35 state centers gathered in the Library's Madison Building to explore ways to work together and leverage scarce resources.

Another "new" face for those in attendance was that of Roberta I. Shaffer, the recently appointed associate librarian for Library Services – the unit that oversees the Center for the Book.

"I want to thank you so much for all that you do and affirm John's statement regarding the Library of Congress's belief in and support of the state centers for the book. ... Our name, the Library of Congress, is affirmed by what you do because you bring us closer to Congress's constituents. ... We are called 'America's library' and we couldn't fulfill that role without you. So it is very very critical that we work together and that there be information flowing both ways, so I am anxious to read the state reports to learn about all the interesting things that are happening at the state centers around the country."



Roberta Shaffer, associate librarian for Library Services: "I want to thank you for all that you do. ... You bring us closer to Congress's constituents."

(Story continues on next page)

The state representatives had previously submitted reports of their activities for the past year, and many of them mentioned that financial difficulties in their states had severely curtailed many of their programs.



Jeanne Drewes of the Preservation Directorate asked the state centers “to look at what we can do to bring preservation information to the public.”

Cole mentioned that the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress also faces challenges. It took from 1984 until 2002 to “complete the circle” with the inclusion of a state center from all the states. “The new challenge is to keep 50 states because of the uncertain financial situation” of many of the states, he said. “You represent a wide variety of host institutions, not just state libraries, which originally were the major hosting group, but also public libraries and an increasing number of state humanities councils and 501(c)(3) independents. We let the states decide how to host their state centers and try to be supportive. ... This brings in new people.”

Jeanne Drewes of the Preservation Directorate urged all the state centers to celebrate Preservation Week during April, “to look at what we can do to bring preservation information to the public... through libraries and through the state centers. I urge you to partner with libraries and archives in your state on preservation events.”

“You can help people preserve things that hold the memory of their lives.”

Those who are interested in working with someone locally on a preservation event are urged to contact Drewes at jdre@loc.gov.

Robert Casper, head of the Poetry and Literature Center at the Library, encouraged state centers to work with his office in holding poetry programs in their states. For example, he noted that last year Rhode Island and Washington state hosted events with poets from their states who had won the Library of Congress’s Witter Bynner fellowships and that two other states will host similar events in 2012. Casper can be contacted at roca@loc.gov.



Rob Casper of the Poetry and Literature Center urged the state centers to co-sponsor poetry events with the Library of Congress.

During the afternoon, the representatives broke into focus groups on fundraising, programming and communications. Rocco Staino, who was representing the New York center, summarized for the group:

“We discussed membership in the Center for the Book.” One state center charges membership fees on a sliding scale (based on annual budget) to the libraries and other nonprofit organizations that belong to the center. Another idea is to raise funds for specific projects and events, using social media, for example.

(Story continues on next page)

(State Center Idea Exchange, from previous page)

Peter Pearson of the Minnesota center, a member of the fundraising group, added advice regarding advisory boards: 1) in forming a board, emphasize fundraising experience of potential members over their love of books; 2) appoint a separate nominating committee; 3) set term limits for members.

Robin Martin of Iowa recapped the programming focus group:

Many of the centers participate in or sponsor book festivals, which are “often supported by corporate donations, state humanities councils or state libraries. Others have awards. In Oklahoma, there is an incredible awards program [www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb/obaward.htm].”

“Writing competitions, websites and Letters About Literature are also important.”

This writer summed up the communications group:

“We focused a lot on basic communications, on just letting people know that a state center exists. One suggestion was, if there is a book festival in your state or community, you might want to have a booth or exhibit there where you can distribute information about your center.

“If you are affiliated with a state humanities council or a university or other organization, consider working with your affiliate’s public affairs staff on promoting your center. Other centers have formed advisory boards, which often consist of influential people who can be enlisted for fundraising and publicity.

“The bottom line is to take advantage of resources already in place and to work with them on advancing your programs.”

The meeting closed with agreement among the participants that they should take a more market-oriented approach in the future and explore new ways of collaborating with other organizations in their communities.

Reading Promotion Partners Meet

By Guy Lamolinara

The March 6 Reading Promotion Partners meeting attracted more than 50 representatives from like-minded organizations both local and from across the country.

“We have two networks, and you are one of a pair with our State Center system,” said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole to the reading promotion partners.

“These two networks are invitations to work with us in ways that will help you. We are open to all ideas, especially those that might bring partners together, even if the Center for the Book itself cannot be involved,” he continued.

Cole mentioned the Library’s forthcoming [Celebration of the Book](#), a new project in which the Center for the Book is playing a key role. It includes an exhibition, “Books That Shaped America.” The initial list of books will be on view in the exhibition, which opens June 25 and closes Sept. 29, and the public will be asked

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Center for the Book Director John Cole noted that “we have two networks, and you are one of a pair with our State Center system.”

(Reading Promotion partners, from previous page)

to nominate other books for inclusion. One idea for the state centers would be to sponsor a “Books That Shaped the State” project.

“I challenge you to think about books that were written by local authors that have shaped your states.”

Later this year the Library will feature “Books That Shaped the World.”



Robin Adelson (center) of the Children's Book Council spoke about her partnership with the Center for the Book and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature program.

The first partner to talk about her organization's activities was Robin Adelson, executive director of the Children's Book Council. The CBC co-sponsors the [National Ambassador for Young People's Literature program](#) with the Center for the Book.

“It was a very busy early January because we announced our third person to take over the post: Walter Dean Myers. ... I love that the theme of the book festival will be ‘Books That Shaped America,’ because Walter's books are up there with those that have changed America.”

Museums are another area of partnership for the Center for the Book. Jessica Beck of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, a part of the Smithsonian Institution, mentioned that the museum has co-sponsored art-related book events with the center, such as those featuring artist Maira Kalman and another with Meryle Secrest, author of a new biography of Amadeo Modigliani.

Josh Cowan of the American Writers Museum announced that this new museum would open in Chicago in 2015. “We are exploring an online exhibit on the power of the written word, on how American authors have influenced global literature,” he said. He invited everyone to go to the [museum's website](#) to nominate books that should be included in the exhibition.

Anthony Smith of the Institute of Museum and Library Services told about his agency's National

Leadership Grant Program, which he described as “a new funding priority of IMLS and its campaign to boost grade-level reading.” Early learning is a priority. “We are encouraging libraries and museums and other organizations to partner with each other. ... The intent of IMLS is to provide more than \$2 million to this initiative.”

At this point, John Cole took a moment to thank IMLS “for its support of the National Book Festival, especially the Pavilion of the States,” which features representatives of the states and U.S. territories presenting information on their states' unique literary heritage.

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More than 40 partners were represented at the meeting.

All photos: Abby Brack Lewis/Library of Congress

(Reading Promotion partners, from previous page)

The Open Book Foundation's Heidi Powell, who is also manager of children's books at Politics & Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C., talked about her new project, which "takes authors to disadvantaged schools in Washington and we send every child home with a signed book."

To learn more about the more than 80 reading promotion partners of the Center for the Book and to connect with them, go to the website and search the [partners page](#).



Letters About Literature Reading-Writing Program Winners Announced

Six Libraries to Receive \$10,000 Grants from Target

Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing program that asks young people in grades 4 through 12 to write to an author (living or deceased) about how his or her book affected their lives, has announced its 2012 winners.

Tens of thousands of young readers from across the country participated in this year's Letters About Literature initiative, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target.



This year's winners come from all parts of the country and wrote to authors as diverse as George Orwell, author of "Animal Farm"; Sharon Draper, author of "Out of My Mind"; Emily Dickinson, author of the poem "I'm Nobody, Who Are You?" and Jon Krakauer, author of "Into Thin Air."

The top letters in each competition level for each state were chosen. Then, two National winners were chosen from each of the three competition levels: Level 1 (grades 4-6), Level 2 (grades 7-8) and Level 3 (grades 9-12). National winners each designate a favorite library that he or she wishes to receive a \$10,000 grant from Target. The students each receive a \$500 Target GiftCard.

In Illinois, Letters About Literature winners (from left) Nadeen Shaban, Level 3 winner; Ben Gachpar, Level 1 winner; and Kate Wardenburg, Level 2 winner,

The four National Honors recipients from each competition level designate a library to receive a \$1,000 Target grant; the students each receive a \$50 Target GiftCard.

Since 1946, Target has given 5 percent of its income – which today equals more than \$3 million a week – to communities. Target sponsors Letters About Literature as part of its commitment to education. In fact, Target is on track to give \$1 billion for education by the end of 2015 to help kids learn, schools teach and parents and caring adults engage.

On the state level, the program is sponsored by affiliate State Centers for the Book. State and national judges include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians and teachers.

(Story continues on next page)

(Letters About Literature, from previous page)

National Winners

Level 1

- Margaret Lim, Searcy, Ark., grade 6, wrote to Sharon Draper, author of “Out of My Mind”
- Darius Atefat-Peckham, Huntington, W.Va, grade 5, wrote to Mark Doty, author of “Dog Years”

Level 2

- Diana Lanni, Fairbanks, Alaska, grade 8, wrote to Robert Service, author of “The Three Voices”
- Abbie Beaver, Hot Springs, Ark., grade 8, wrote to George Orwell, author of “Animal Farm”

Level 3

- Amber-Nicole Watty, Grantville, Ga., grade 12, wrote to Jay Asher, author of “Thirteen Reasons Why”
- Alexandra McLaughlin, Minneapolis, grade 12, wrote to Tim O’Brien, author of “The Things They Carried”

National Honor Winners

Level 1

- Tekyiah Sandford, Winder, Ga., grade 6, wrote to Sharon Flake, author of “The Skin I’m In”
- Ella Frantzen, Lafayette, La., grade 5, wrote to Fred Gipson, author of “Old Yeller”

- Erica Langan, Cincinnati, grade 6, wrote to Emily Dickinson about her poem “I’m Nobody, Who Are You?”
- Clare Doran, Seattle, grade 6, wrote to Jamie Ford, author of “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet”

Level 2

- Ian Tindel, Newhall, Calif., grade 8, wrote to Piers Anthony, author of “On a Pale Horse”
- Abigail Taylor, Iola, Kan., grade 8. Author’s name and book title withheld by request; Abigail Taylor’s letter is also withheld by request
- Everest Fang, Cottonwood Heights, Utah, grade 8, wrote to Jon Krakauer, author of “Into Thin Air”
- Sam Smith, Port Townsend, Wash., grade 8, wrote to Julie Ann Peters, author of “Keeping You a Secret”

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In Maryland, Adam Antoszewski, Level 3 winner (from left); Claire Jenkins, Level 2 winner; and Jisoo Choi, Level 1 winner attended that state’s ceremony.

Level 3

- Paw Soe, Fort Wayne, Ind., grade 10, wrote to Cynthia Kadahota, author of “Kira-Kira”
- Ida Behreini, Bayonne, N.J., grade 9, wrote to Suzanne Collins, author of “The Hunger Games”
- Lucia Hadella, Talent, Ore., grade 12, wrote to Derrick Jensen, author of “A Language Older than Words”
- Oliver Reed, Spokane, Wash., grade 10, wrote to William Ernest Henley, author of “Invictus”

The complete national winning letters are available in the “News” section at www.lettersaboutliterature.org.

For information about the program and a list of previous winners, visit www.read.gov/contests/. For further details, contact national program director Cathy Gourley at cgourley@verizon.net.

Since its creation by Congress in 1977 to “stimulate public interest in books and reading,” the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress (www.Read.gov/cfb/) has become a major national force for reading and literacy promotion. A public-private partnership, it sponsors educational programs that reach readers of all ages, nationally and internationally. The Center provides leadership for affiliated state centers for the book (including the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and nonprofit reading promotion partners and plays a key role in the Library’s annual National Book Festival. It also oversees the Library’s Read.gov website and administers the Library’s Young Readers Center.

Minneapolis-based Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT) serves guests at more than 1,763 stores across the United States and at Target.com. The company plans to open its first stores in Canada in 2013. In addition, the company operates a credit card segment that offers branded proprietary credit card products. Since 1946, Target has given 5 percent of its income through community grants and programs; today, that giving equals more than \$3 million a week. For more information about Target’s commitment to corporate responsibility, visit Target.com/hereforgood.



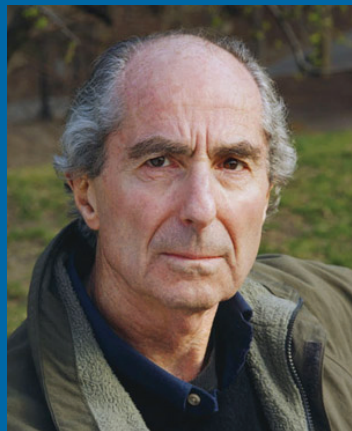
National Book Festival 2012 Attracts Top Authors

Philip Roth, Mario Vargas Llosa, Patricia Cornwell, Philip Levine Among More than 100 Writers Attending

Renowned novelists Philip Roth, Mario Vargas Llosa and Patricia Cornwell, and Poet Laureate Philip Levine are among the more than 100 writers who will discuss and sign their works during the 12th annual Library of Congress National Book Festival on Saturday, Sept. 22, and Sunday, Sept. 23.

The Center for the Book coordinates the author program by selecting and inviting authors and planning their schedules. Once again, the Center for the Book will sponsor the festival’s most popular attraction, the Pavilion of the States, with

(Continued on next page)



Philip Roth

Photo by Nancy Crampton

(National Book Festival, from previous page)

co-sponsors the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies.

The festival, on the National Mall between 9th and 14 streets, is free and open to the public and will run from **10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday** and from **noon to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday**, rain or shine.

Pavilion of the States

Here, representatives from the states and U.S. territories will be on hand. A special brochure offers “Great Reads About Great Places” – a list of one book for each state that represents that state’s unique literary heritage. A map inside provides young people with an opportunity to visit all the state tables and collect a special stamp from each state along the way.

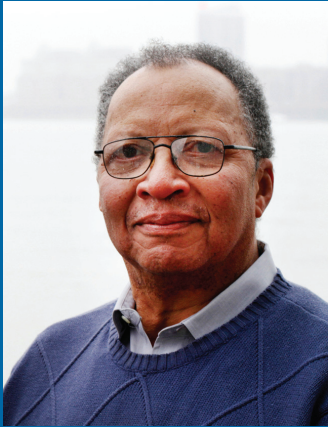
The festival offers something for every taste and age.

In the Children’s pavilion:

- Katherine Applegate and Michael Grant, “Eve and Adam”
- Avi, “Sophia’s War”
- Bob Balaban, “The Creature from the 7th Grade: Boy or Beast”
- Peter Brown, “Creepy Carrots”
- Anna Dewdney, “Llama Llama Time to Share”
- Jewel, “That’s What I Do”
- Mary Pope Osborne, Natalie Pope Boyce “Magic Tree House No. 48: A Perfect Time for Pandas”; “Magic Tree House Fact Tracker No. 26: Pandas and Other Endangered Species: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House No. 48”
- Patricia Polacco, “The Art of Miss Chew”
- Chris Raschka, “A Ball for Daisy”
- Laura Amy Schlitz, “Splendors and Glooms”
- Jerry Spinelli, “Third Grade Angels”
- Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead, “Bear Has a Story to Tell”
- David Ezra Stein, “Because Amelia Smiled” (Candlewick)

In the Teens & Children pavilion:

- Collier, Bryan, “I, Too, Am America”
- James Dashner, “The Death Cure”
- Sharon Flake, “Pinned”
- John Green, “The Fault in Our Stars”
- Jenny Han/Siobhan Vivian, “Burn for Burn”
- Ellen Hopkins, “Tilt”
- David Levithan, “Every You, Every Me”
- Lois Lowry, “Gathering Blue”
- Mike Lupica, “Game Changers: Book 1”
- Sonia Manzano, “The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano”
- Walter Dean Myers, “We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart”
- Maggie Stiefvater, “The Scorpio Races”
- R.L. Stine, “Goosebumps Hall of Horrors #6: The Birthday Party of No Return”
- Jacqueline Woodson, “Beneath a Meth Moon”



Walter Dean Myers

(Continued on next page)

(National Book Festival, from previous page)

In the Contemporary Life pavilion:



Photo by Matt Valentine

Philip Levine

- Fergus Bordewich, “America’s Great Debate”
- Christopher Bram, “Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America”
- Tom Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, “That Used to Be Us”
- Linda Greenhouse, “The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction”
- Joy Harjo, “Crazy Brave: A Memoir”
- Steve Inskeep, “Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi”
- Charles Kupchan, “No One’s World: The West, the Rising Rest and the Coming Global Turn”
- Marilynne Robinson, “When I Was a Child I Read Books”
- Francesca Serritella and Lisa Scottoline, “Best Friends, Occasional Enemies: The Lighter Side of Life as a Mother and Daughter”
- Jeffrey Toobin, “The Oath: The Obama White House vs. the Supreme Court”
- Eric Weiner, “Man Seeks God: My Flirtations with the Divine”
- Daniel Yergin, “The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World”

In the Fiction & Mystery pavilion:

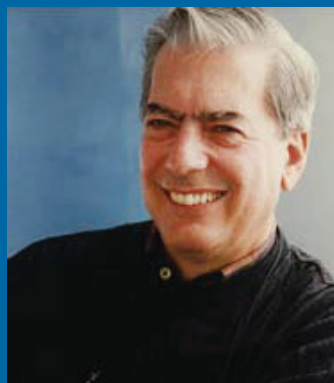


Photo by Morgana Vargas Llosa

Mario Vargas Llosa

- Geraldine Brooks, “Caleb’s Crossing”
- Stephen L. Carter, “The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln”
- Sandra Cisneros, “Have You Seen Marie?”
- Michael Connelly, “The Drop”
- Patricia Cornwell, “Red Mist”
- Maria Duenas, “The Time in Between”
- Charlaine Harris, “Deadlocked” (Sookie Stackhouse Book 12)
- Eloisa James, “The Ugly Duchess”
- Steven Millhauser, “We Others: New and Selected Stories”
- Philip Roth (for his body of work)
- Susan Richards Shreve, “You Are the Love of My Life”
- Lisa Scottoline, “Come Home”
- Justin Torres, “We the Animals”
- Mario Vargas Llosa, “The Dream of the Celt”

In the History & Biography pavilion:



Photo by Siren-Com/Creative Commons

Patricia Cornwell

- Douglas Brinkley, “Cronkite”
- Robert Caro, “The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson”
- John Farrell, “Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned”
- John Lewis Gaddis, “George Kennan: An American Life”
- Susan Hertog, “Dangerous Ambition: Rebecca West and Dorothy Thompson: New Women in Search of Love and Power”
- Tony Horwitz, “Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War”
- Walter Isaacson, “Steve Jobs”
- Dave Maraniss, “Barack Obama: The Story”
- Chris Matthews, “Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero”
- Sally Bedell Smith, “Elizabeth the Queen”
- David O. Stewart, “American Emperor: Aaron Burr”
- Elizabeth Dowling Taylor, “A Slave in the White House: Paul Jennings and the Madisons”

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In the Poetry & Prose pavilion:

- T.C. Boyle, “San Miguel”
- Giannina Braschi, “United States of Banana”
- Junot Diaz, “This Is How You Get Her”
- Stephen Dunn, “Different Hours: Poems”
- Jeffrey Eugenides, “The Marriage Plot”
- Nikky Finney, “Head Off & Split: Poems”
- Paul Hendrickson, “Hemingway’s Boat: Everything He Loved in Life, and Lost: 1934-61 ”
- Tayari Jones, “Sweet Sparrow: A Novel”
- Laura Kasischke, “Space, In Chains”
- Philip Levine “Breath: Poems”
- Margot Livesey, “The Flight of Gemma Hardy”
- Thomas Mallon, “Watergate: A Novel”
- Poetry Out Loud
- Colson Whitehead, “Zone One”

In the Graphic Novels, Fantasy & Science Fiction pavilion (Sunday only)

- Lois McMaster Bujold, “Cryoburn”
- Nalo Hopkinson, “The Chaos”
- Raina Telgemeier, “Drama”
- Craig Thompson, “Habibi”
- Vernor Vinge, “The Children of the Sky” (Zones of Thought)

In the Special Programs pavilion (Sunday only)

- Michael Dirda, “On Conan Doyle: Or, the Whole Art of Storytelling”
- Rafael Lopez, National Book Festival poster artist
- Hope Larson, Anita Silvey, Leonard Marcus “A Wrinkle in Time” program
- Corey Olsen, “Exploring J.R.R. Tolkien’s ‘The Hobbit’”
- DC Public Library essay contest awards program
- National Student Poets



New Jersey Center for the Book Chair Is Named Library Champion

Renee B. Swartz, chair of the Monmouth County Library Commission and the New Jersey Center for the Book, has been named the New Jersey Library Champion for 2012 by the New Jersey State Library. Swartz received the award during the New Jersey Library Association Conference in Atlantic City on June 6.

“For over 46 years, Renee Becker Swartz has worked tirelessly to ensure that the importance of libraries, reading and literacy is fresh in the minds of elected officials and the general public,” the award proclaims. The award goes on to commend Swartz for “her illustrious career, noteworthy accomplishments and meritorious service to her community, state and nation.”

(Renee Swartz, from previous page)

Swartz has been a member of the Monmouth County Library Commission since 1966 and the commission chair since 1976. She was the driving force in the construction of the Library's Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury and its headquarters in Manalapan, which is the largest public library building in New Jersey. Under her guidance, the Monmouth County Library System has grown to encompass 13 branches and 14 member libraries, serving the information needs of almost 500,000 residents of Monmouth County. She continues to champion innovative and educational programming throughout the library system, spearheading a master plan review to move the Monmouth County Library System into 21st century initiatives and endorsing the expansion of its Teen and Young Adult Department.



Renee Swartz

On the state level, Swartz founded the New Jersey Center for the Book in 2000 and continues to serve as its chair. She has served as the Governor's Appointment to the New Jersey State Library Advisory Council since 1976 and was its chair from 1986 to 1991, and again from 1994 to the present. Swartz has been on the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame since 1994 and for 22 years has served as chair of the Program Associates, the Trustee Board of the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers University.

Swartz was a presidential appointee to the Institute of Museum and Library Services Board from 2004 to 2009, and is a continuing national member of the board emerita. IMLS is the independent federal grant-making agency that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's 18,500 museums and 125,000 libraries through annual grants of more than \$22 million.



Eleven Michigan Libraries Receive Literary Grants from Michigan Center for the Book

As it has done in the past, the Michigan Center for the Book this year is sponsoring 11 events, with grants totaling \$2,964. The funded programs include Big Read programs; author visits for adult and children's authors; programs highlighting Michigan's history and ethnic heritage; and reading programs that keep children on track during the summer and help families experience the wonder of learning to read together.

In announcing the grants, Michigan Center for the Book coordinator Karren Reish stated that the Michigan center was "delighted to bring the wonder of Michigan's authors and literary heritage to children, teens and adults by assisting libraries around the state with their programs." Karren can be reached at reishk@michigan.gov.

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The following programs were funded in public libraries throughout the state:

- Adrian Public Library - Comic Book and Manga Workshop with Mark Crilley - \$320 – October 2012
- Bayliss Public Library, Sault Ste. Marie - Visit from Michigan Author of the Year, Gary Schmidt - \$270 – April 13, 2012
- Brighton District Library - Robin Hood Literary Events - \$295 – May 2012
- Canton Public Library - Local Author Fair - \$235 – May 17, 2012
- Cromaine District Library, Hartland – “Adventures of Tom Sawyer” Community Read Events - \$450 – March through May 2012
- Dearborn Heights City Libraries - Bryan Chick author visit - \$200 – July 24, 2012
- Grand Rapids Public Library - Grand Rapids Reads events - \$450 – August 2012
- Ironwood Carnegie Library - Dinosaurs, Dragons & Dreams @ the Library - \$225 – July 2012
- Leanna Hicks Library/Inkster Public Library - Joel Tacey author visit - \$189 – July 17, 2012
- Romeo District Library - Nightmares Up Close Summer Reading events - \$180 – April 13, 2012
- Southfield Public Library – “Fever: Little Willie John” book event with author Susan Whithall - \$150 – April 2, 2012

The Center for the Book is delighted to bring the wonder of Michigan’s authors and literary heritage to children, teens and adults by assisting libraries around the state with their programs. Grant funds were supplied by the Center for the Book affiliate members.

The Michigan Center for the Book is a program of the Library of Michigan and its affiliates. It is also the Michigan affiliate of the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. The Michigan center draws from the Library of Michigan and its affiliate institutions to encourage and produce local and state-wide programs and resources that promote books, reading, authors and libraries.

For more information on the Center for the Book and its programs, please contact Karren Reish at (517) 241-0021 or reishk@michigan.gov.



Alabama Hosts Statewide Book Gathering

On March 3, Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole was a special guest and speaker at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa at the Alabama Center for the Book's all-day conference on "Alabama Special Collections and Archives for the 21st Century."



John Cole and Timothy Barrett discussed the future of special collections during a break.

Other speakers included Timothy Barrett, research scientist and adjunct professor at the University of Iowa and former director of the University of Iowa Center for the Book, who spoke on "Material Book Studies and the Future of Special Collections"; noted book artist Timothy Ely; book sellers Bill and Vicky Stewart of Vamp & Tramp in Birmingham; Kenneth Gaddy, director of the Paul W. Bryant Museum in Tuscaloosa; and Steve Miller, professor and coordinator of the University of Alabama's Master of Fine Arts in the Book Arts program, who also teaches letterpress printing and hand papermaking.

Cole spoke briefly about the history of the Alabama Center for the Book, which relocated in 2010 from Auburn University to the University of Alabama. He also discussed the national Center for the Book's longstanding interest in promoting book history, special collections, preservation and the book arts. Conference convener Louis Pitschmann, dean of libraries at the University of Alabama, concluded with observations about the importance of special collections and book arts to the future program of the Alabama Center for the Book.



Maine Book Organizations Host John Cole

The Maine Center for the Book hosted Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole for events associated with the Maine Book Festival, held on March 30 in Portland at the University of Southern Maine. On March 29, at the University of Southern Maine, Cole presented an illustrated talk, "The Library of Congress, Its Center for the Book and Print Culture." Co-sponsors were the Maine Humanities Council, home of the Maine Center for the Book, and the university's Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for the Book Arts.

The next day, book artist Rebecca Goodale, who also serves as the program coordinator for the Center for Book Arts, gave Cole a personal tour of her exhibition, "Lullaby for Maine," on view at the University of New England Art Gallery in Portland through June. This extraordinary collection of limited-edition art books uses techniques such as silkscreen printing, painting, collage, paper folding, cutting and stitching to celebrate the flora and fauna of northern New England that are threatened or disappearing.



John Cole (left) chats with Sarah Cecil, executive director of Maine Reads, and Erik Jorgensen, executive director of the Maine Humanities Council.



Center for the Book Partner Opens New Online Exhibition

The American *Writers* Museum™



Which writers have inspired and influenced leaders from around the world? Which literary works from around the world have inspired American writers? Which books would help global leaders better understand American culture? The American Writers Museum, a Center for the Book reading promotion partner, explores these topics in its first online exhibit, “Power of the Word: Leaders, Readers & Writers,” at www.poweroftheword.americanwritersmuseum.org.

The “Power of the Word” exhibit provides a fascinating glimpse into the reading habits and literary preferences of some of the world’s most powerful leaders, many of whom the U.S. is hosting this spring for the G8 and NATO summits, as well as the World Summit of Nobel Peace laureates.

Visitors to the online exhibit will learn about the favorite books and reading habits of political leaders such as Angela Merkel, Nelson Mandela, Dilma Rousseff, Yoshihiko Noda, David Cameron, Wen Jiabao and Barack Obama among others.

In a separate online gallery, contemporary American writers share their early memories of reading and comment on which authors from other countries have influenced their own writing. They also suggest books by American authors that they think might help world leaders gain a better understanding of American culture.

The “Readers” section of the exhibition asks visitors to recommend writings by American authors that would help foreign leaders (and indeed all foreigners) better understand America.



Calendar of Events

Sept. 7, Room 119, Thomas Jefferson Building

Celebration of International Literacy Day. Co-sponsored with the International Reading Association.

Sept. 22, 10 am – 5 pm

National Mall, 12th National Book Festival

Sept. 23, noon-5 pm,

National Mall, 12th National Book Festival

Oct. 17 – Nov. 14

Kids Euro Festival, Young Readers Center

Oct. 19, West Dining Room, Montpelier Room and Dining Room A, Madison Building

National Collegiate Book Collecting Awards Ceremony and Reception



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